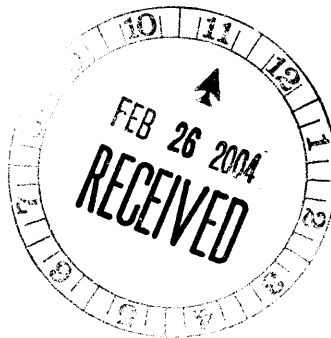


#E1-666
RGS

February 22, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

I am an accountant / housewife and my husband is a farmer / rancher. We live in New Fountain and we have four young children. We are opposed to Vulcan's quarry and railroad for the following reasons.

- I. Elimination and / or contamination of water source, which includes Leona Gravel (60 feet deep) wells and the Edwards Aquifer.
 - A. The area Vulcan will use as a quarry is a recharge area to the Edwards Aquifer. Medina Lake which is only several miles from the quarry site is the biggest recharge to the Edwards Aquifer. All the water recharged from Medina Lake according to geologists flows to the west below the proposed quarry site and stays in the aquifer for forty years.
 - B. Our concern is that Vulcan's blasting will cause Edwards underground streams and rivers to change course or even worse stop the flow of water to the west. If the flow of water is changed southward, then water could leave the aquifer in less than ten years through fault-lines underground. Fault-lines are underground dams creating the flow to the west, blasting could destroy these dams.
 - C. If this water source is destroyed millions of people (including San Antonio) would be devastated. **There must be a very comprehensive study done to ensure our water source is not destroyed or contaminated.**
- II. Flooding
 - A. The proposed quarry site and railroad routes are in the 100 year flood plain.
 - B. Both would change the natural flow of creeks / streams. We already have one railroad damming water and flooding local property including our farm and home. More birms and dams will result in local homes and properties being flooded and possible deaths.
- III. Safety of our family, friends and neighbors
 - A. Local farm to market roads we travel everyday will be more dangerous with Vulcan's many trucks and railroad crossings. Six miles away from our home and entire family was killed when an eighteen wheeler plowed into their vehicle. We do not want this to happen to another neighbor, friend or family member.
 - B. If the railroad and quarry are built all roads should be above the railroad crossings for safety purposes and uninterrupted traffic. We also believe a divided highway should be built along the railroad going directly to Highway 90.
 - C. Many local farmers move heavy, wide equipment down the same roads Vulcan's trucks would use. This would create more safety concerns for the local community.
 - D. Vulcan should be required to absorb some of these costs instead of local taxpayers.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects, including no quarry and no rail line at all.

Sincerely,

Staci Boehme Allison Boehme Adele Boehme
Curtis Boehme ~~Bo~~ Brook Boehme
 Heidi Boehme

Curtis, Staci, Allison, Adele, Brook and Heidi Boehme
455 County Road 452
Hondo, Texas 78861